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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

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“Race, Racism, and Police Use of Force in 21st Century Criminology: An Empirical Examination”

Race scholars have voiced concern about the field of criminology and how it examines issues pertaining to race and racism. Various critiques have been made, from the field’s overly positivist approach that privileges “white logics” that obscure the nuance of race relations to methodological critiques on how the field understands the significance of race in its models. While scholars have repeated these concerns over the years in a manner that is largely based on their intuitions and experiences, there is little systematic understanding of how criminologists have treated race in their recent scholarship. Moreover, as the public continues to seek more information on the significance of race in how law enforcement uses force, questions about the scholarly treatment of race and racism within criminology have become more urgent.

This talk is based upon a forthcoming piece in the UCLA Law Review that provides an initial assessment of how the field of criminology has approached issues regarding race and racism in relation to police use of force by conducting an empirical examination of publications in top criminology journals over the past two decades. We find that this research has largely failed to seriously engage or explore how race and racism shape the use of force by police and are predicates for the violence disproportionately inflicted upon minority communities. These findings, along with existing critiques of the field, give rise to significant questions regarding the relevance and utility of contemporary criminological research in understanding modern policing and its human toll.

PLACE Zoom and In-Person in Room 244, Berkeley Law | [Masking requirements here](#). | [Register here for the zoom link](#).

TIME 12:45 – 2:00pm.

INFO <https://www.csls.berkeley.edu>

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